

EDITORIALS

Three More Weeks

In less than three weeks, Torrance voters will go to the polls to select three members of their new seven-man city council and will select—for the first time—the man who will be the city's mayor for the next four years.

A large slate of candidates is in the field for each of the offices at stake—four for mayor and 15 for the three city council seats.

Not all of the candidates can be considered serious contenders for these offices, however.

In the case of the race for mayor, two candidates are fighting it out for the job—Nick Drale, mayor here during the council year 1954-55, and Albert Isen, mayor since that time.

Two other candidates, Walter G. Ryan and Dearn Craft, have made no announcements, and as far as this newspaper can determine, no public appearances on behalf of their candidacies.

A similar condition exists among the 15 candidates for the city council seats, although more of the candidates are actively campaigning.

Apparently leading the field is Willys Blount, a member of the council since 1950 who is seeking a vote of confidence at the April 8 election.

Grouping the balance of the candidates at this point is difficult. Apparent leaders are J. A. Beasley, George Bradford, Thirvin Fleetwood, Virgil Hancock, Jim Thompson, and George Vico (in alphabetical order). There may be some surprises in the field of other candidates, but veteran observers on the local political scene tell us these seven men will probably be in the final showdown for the three council seats.

The HERALD suggests that the city's voters consider this election a most important one and make themselves acquainted with the candidates. Attend the public meetings in the area where candidates are appearing, and ask questions. The decisions of the Torrance city council are important in many ways to each resident in the city.

LAW IN ACTION

Taking an Oath

The stakes in life, liberty and property in our courts are high and call for solemnity.

You must take an oath before you may take the witness stand, for instance.

"Do you solemnly swear (or affirm)," the clerk says, "that the evidence you are about to give in the issue now pending shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God."

You reply: "Yes," or "I do."

Why the oath? To impress a witness and to bind him to tell the truth upon penalty of perjury.

For a long time in England no one could testify in court unless he professed certain religious beliefs as to the nature of the after-life. The great John Stuart Mill waged war on this because, he said, a truthful disbeliever was the only one penalized. For the liar would claim the belief to get his day in court. This rewarding of liars, he claimed, was self-defeating.

In America may a witness take the oath some other way? Yes, if the judge believes that you have a special way of taking a binding oath, the clerk may use it.

Suppose you cannot in good conscience take any oath at all? Then you may "solemnly affirm." To lie on the witness stand has the same legal effect as a false oath: You may face a perjury charge.

In the past California courts held that a lie would not be perjury unless made under oath. But now, in a written statement a new California law allows you to make an unsworn written certification "under penalty or perjury." With certain exceptions you may use it anywhere the law permits or calls for written statements under oath. The certificate must say that the statement is made "under penalty of perjury."

Note: California lawyers offer this column to you may know about our laws.

Unemployment Facts

The first week following the filing of a new claim for unemployment insurance is known as the "waiting period," and no payment can be made for that week. First payment after filing a new claim usually is made within two or three weeks. If the claimant meets all the eligibility requirements he usually can be paid for one week on his first regular report day after the second week has passed.

Claimants visiting the office for their first payment report to a special window for the Eligibility Benefit Interview. At this time the benefit amount is explained, and any questions answered. A departmental representative also reviews with the claimant the reason for his unemployment and the kinds of work he is able to accept and is seeking, as well as the circumstances under which he is able and willing to work.

It is important that a claimant bring up any question at this time as to his continued eligibility to receive insurance, as any money paid to a claimant who is in any way ineligible will have to be repaid.

Readers of this column may obtain a pamphlet on unemployment insurance by writing a card or letter to the Department of Employment, 1628 Cravens Ave.

Wonderful Wizards of Washington



YOUR PROBLEMS by Ann Landers

The Deaf Need to Be Heard

Dear Ann: I have a problem I've never seen mentioned in your column. I'm totally deaf due to illness, but studied lip-reading and have a fair ability to understand. Although I repeatedly tell people that I have no hearing, they seem to think if they shout in my ear I will hear them. Sometimes they get so close to my face when they speak, I get cross-eyed trying to read their lips. Then, lip-reading becomes impossible.

My doctor has insisted that I not withdraw from outside activity but it's slow torture to attend social affairs. I often have the feeling of being completely invisible because I'm ignored a good bit of the time.

I never make demands or try to dominate a situation. All I ask is a little recognition that I'm doing my best and that I'm not so different from others.

Do people think that because one is deaf he has no ideas, and therefore is of no value to a committee? Do they think that because one cannot hear he cannot speak, and ought to be passed over completely in conversation? Please, Ann, print this letter as a service. We who cannot hear need to be heard.—MRS. E.M.R.

Dear Mrs. E.M.R.: Thank you for writing. Those of us who live in a world of sound often forget that not everyone is so fortunate.

I hope your letter will remind us to be more considerate of our deaf friends. In most cases, the thoughtlessness is due to ignorance and a lack of experience with handicapped people.

It's difficult for individuals who are blessed with the ability to hear and to see, to imagine what life is like for those who are deprived of these senses.

A letter such as yours is a sober reminder, and I hope it will contribute to better understanding.

Dear Ann: I've been engaged to a girl for seven months. We went together three years but she refused to become officially engaged until I could buy her an \$800 ring.

She works in an office building across the street from my dad's store, (which I run). I used to drive her home from work every night, until she began to make excuses that she was working late about three times a week.

long time and had earned it. What shall I do?

—HEP HARRY

If you're sure the guy who looked old enough to be her father wasn't her father, see a lawyer. An engagement ring is a promise to wed. Since she was seeing another man she obviously no longer intended to keep that promise. Under the circumstances, the ring should be returned.

Dear Ann: I'm writing in regard to 18-year-old Lu Anne. She wanted to know if it was possible to straighten out a guy's drinking by marrying him and giving him "strength".

I was in Lu Anne's shoes six months ago and wrote to you for advice. You told me not to be a fool and try to play "reformer". You were SO right, but I didn't listen. I married the soak and in the

last five months I've aged ten years.

I never know where my husband is or what he's doing. He stayed on the wagon exactly five days after our marriage and has been potted ever since.

Any woman who thinks she can give her husband the strength to quit drinking is stupid. This is a job for a doctor. Believe me, I know.

—EXHIBIT A

Confidentially: Philial Phil: Family devotion you call it? Sounds like bats in the hatches to me, Son. Three generations under one roof is too much like the mob scene from Quo Vadis. Your girl is right to insist on a place of her own.

(Ann Landers will be happy to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of THE HERALD and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. (C) 1958, Field Enterprises, Inc.

Make-Work Projects Should Fill Need Plus Providing Employment

By REYNOLDS KNIGHT

In the '30s, many federal works projects misfired because in the desire to put men to work, state and local governments often came up with construction jobs that filled no particularly pressing need.

All kinds of make-work projects were undertaken. Cost-wise, many of them were expensive, even in terms of 1933 dollars. But the projects kept thousands of otherwise idle workers off relief rolls.

Today the need is twofold. On the one hand, thousands of communities can use new schools or school additions; cities need to clear slums and make way for better housing; superhighways and expressways are needed to speed traffic safely through city and country. And on the other hand is the need for recession-struck areas to provide work for their citizens.

Thus, there are plenty of takers, among local and state governments, for federal public works money—and Washington has indicated highway and housing programs will be accelerated. This time, unlike 1933, many of the projects have been unhurriedly blueprinted with a view to both need and practicability. And advocates of stepped-up public spending argue this will create more jobs, workers will spend more in sagging consumer markets, and the whole process will tend to stimulate business activity.

COMBATING THE SLUMP—Companies with a keen eye for gauging the consumer's needs are those best equipped to combat the kind of sales resistance that many retailers are crying about. Product research and development is paying off now for the companies

offering the public the wares it wants.

In the photographic field, the value of equipment shipped by U.S. producers has been increasing recently nearly twice as fast as our standard of living. New cameras and accessories are being introduced almost daily to meet the desires of an ever-growing army of "shutterbugs." Now comes an intriguing development—a compact electronic photoflash unit that eliminates the bulky separate power pack, as well as the flashbulbs that once were necessary for nighttime or indoor picture-making.

The new unit, known as the "Futuramic Stronbonar," was developed by Heiland, a division of Minneapolis-Honeywell. It weighs only 35 ounces, is less than a foot long, and incorporates within its lamp-head and handle all the necessary components for providing the main source of light. It operates on three standard flashlight batteries or can be plugged into house current.

THINGS TO COME—To make sure you don't miss any of your favorite shows, a TV program finder has varicolored plastic pins representing different channels that can be stuck into a pegboard marked off in hours and days of the week. . . . A new lawn and hedge trimmer connects to garden hose and is powered by water pressure. . . . As an aid in cutting and fitting linoleum, tile, wood, plastics and sheet metals around pipes, cabinets, door sills and frames, there's a contour scriber on the market that marks circles or scrolls from one to 25 inches in diameter and follows irregular, uneven lines and surfaces.

Foreign Aid Waste Detailed

In the preceding column we pointed out that the present stampede of both Republicans and Democrats in favor of foreign aid leaves out the most essential element of the whole foreign aid program . . . its implementation—the way the money is to be used.

We have always maintained that on the basis of our annual observations around the world entirely too much American aid is wasted by the recipient governments on political projects and political-pets rather than in behalf of the people.

The present crash-campaign in favor of the administration's \$3,900,000,000 foreign aid bill is not entirely convincing to this reporter, as too much emphasis is placed on securing the money and not enough on telling us how it is going to be spent. This political stampede is confusing the nation, as revealed to us in questions and answer periods on our nationwide lecture tours. It is the same frustration which resulted after Sputnik I. Prior to the launching of the Russian satellite we miserably neglected our science in our schools. After Sputnik we became determined to launch a satellite of our own almost every hour on the hour. And as one Southern senator put it: "with an elephant in each one to show the Russians who is boss."

We meet able men and women in charge of some of our foreign aid programs abroad. They are sincere and dedicated people. But these are in the minority. Many of those we meet around the world are fuzzy-minded self-appointed "world saviors"—misfits inside the American way of life, who crammed enough political recommendations on the desk of some of their incompetent and scared him into appointing them to the foreign aid program, for a free adventure abroad.

These are the "college boys," still fighting the battle of the frat house bull sessions on sex, socialism, sociology and "money-isn't-everything" thesis. Lucky for some of them that dad had a light heart, a heavy checkbook, and political influence to put them in a spot where they could continue to extol the frat-house virtues of "money-isn't-everything."

It is our opinion that no one should be appointed to any field-job on foreign aid who has not successfully earned a living, or who has not learned the value of a dollar or the sweat necessary to produce it. A general house-cleaning is needed here to get rid of the theorists and incompetent political appointees, and replace them with experienced men and women . . . educators, professional people, farmers, technicians, medical missionaries, businessmen, mechanics . . . practical people with dedication and cognizance of the American way of life, the free enterprise system and the virtues of hard work. After all, the system which pays the bill should be paid the deserving homage.

This reporter has observed too many examples of waste to pass them off as inevitable even when such huge sums are involved. We don't believe that so much waste should be inevitable in any program. We believe enormous waste will be inevitable unless administered by efficient and experienced personnel. Here are some examples we can recall of ridiculous and unwarranted waste:

Last year we gave a wealthy Iranian group over \$5,000,000 to complete a college in Teheran, when this same group earns as much in one day on oil royalties. We could use this \$5,000,000 better for schools in Alabama and Georgia.

We put up over \$1,000,000 for free air transportation for thousands of Arabs too poor to visit their shrine in Mecca, while thousands were starving to death on the road to Mecca. The grandiose and expensive air travel was neither necessary nor preferable to primitive Arabs who were scared to death with the experience. Ground transportation would have been just as appreciated and at a lot less cost. In some cases the American guides who went along preferred the plane trip.

We financed the purchase of dress suits for Greek undertakers and club rooms for policemen in Athens . . . recreation centers for Arab camel caravans in the desert . . . built a \$125,000 cow barn outside of Beirut to demonstrate American tractors to farmers existing on a measly

farm income of \$100 a year. The noise and the complicated gadgets scared most of them away. Our over-enthusiastic theorists don't seem to get it into their heads that the U. S. can't rush history. Furnishing seed, soil fertilizers and a little know-how, minus the motor tractors, for the time being might smooth up the transition and soften the shock of drastic change.

We gave Afghanistan \$15,000,000 last year to build five new airports, whereas in Afghanistan almost everybody rides camels. It appears quite a big jump from camel to air transportation. In Laos, a nation of 1,500,000, we crammed enough expensive serums and hypodermic needles to inoculate half of Asia. We shipped boat loads of surplus olive oil to Greece, while at the same time Greece was exporting olive oil to the U. S. In 1955 we gave India \$2,000,000 of prefabricated steel to build 50 grain silos and in 1957 this same steel remained piled up in Calcutta unused. And at a loss of over \$10,000 a month we sponsored Satchmos Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie around the world as examples of American musical art.

Even such flagrant abuses and miscalculations do not discredit the principle of the U. S. foreign aid program. The principle is practical and sound, providing we can afford it and it does not dangerously weaken the American economy, which is at present shaking on the proverbial tight-rope. In trying to help the unfortunate peoples of the world, we must not forget the unfortunate people at home . . . our citizens on fixed incomes who are caught in a trap between inflation and higher taxes.

Foreign aid is also sound if it succeeds in fighting present and future "isms" . . . for it is silly to spend billions to fight one evil, Communism, while helping to foster another: Socialism, as has been the case in recent years in Britain, France, and Italy. In providing foreign aid we must never lose sight of the fact that free enterprise put up the money . . . and this money should never be made available for the support of any such schemes abhorrent to the free enterprise system.

THE FREELANCER by Tom Rische

What Comes Down Goes Down

"Wonder why they didn't make the ground level here," I mused one hot day last summer, as I proceeded to level off a ridge of dirt around the edge of the yard.

I got my answer when the rains started this fall. At the spot where I knocked out the ridge of dirt, a river of water gushed downhill, leaving a deep gully where luxuriant dichondra once had flourished. With the water went some 20 heaping wheelbarrows of dirt (laboriously carted in later).

That was my introduction to the magic words—drainage—which the real estate salesman had discussed so glibly when I bought the house.

When the sun is shining brightly and a real estate salesman is waxing eloquent, it's hard to visualize any problems connected with water. The main problem at that time seemed to be paying the bills for all the water which went to make the lawn and the weeds green and healthy.

The plain fact is, however, that water always runs downhill. The steeper the hill, the faster it runs and the more damage it can do. Many of my neighbors, who were also equally ignorant of this elementary fact as it relates to yards, made the same startling discovery.

Result: I had a gaping hole in the front bank and the sidewalk was undermined to the point where I wasn't sure what was holding it up. Other neighbors had similar troubles. Several had backyard full of goo. The poor guy on the corner gamely battled a

waterfall of mud which cascaded from his yard onto the sidewalk, 10 feet lower.

Our problems are irritating and expensive to solve, but we can always go in the house to get away from it, unless the roof leaks.

Not so fortunate are the residents of lower-lying areas of town. A few unlucky souls found water pouring into their homes, and many more found themselves wading through knee-deep water to get in and out of their castles.

They, too, had overlooked some of the more important facts about drainage—namely that water always collects at the lowest point in the area. Their yards are filled with silt, fertilizer, cans, bottles, and anything else that may have floated by during the deluge.

Drainage can strain the good relations between neighbors, with fights over whose water should drain where.

Hell hath no fury like a neighbor who knocks at your door to announce, "Your water is pouring into my rose garden!" Problems arise over where dikes should be built, because if you build it one way, it may drain on the Smiths' property, while if it's constructed another way, the Joneses may get the benefit. Chances are neither one of them will like it.

People in lower-lying areas generally do not do anything but sit there and let the water gush down at them. Their problems last longer and can't be ignored by simply shutting their doors.

Newcomers from other parts of the country constant-

ly express amazement at the paralysis which spreads over Southern California when the skies open up. Heavy sieges of rain, such as have fallen this year, make many parts of the area hard or impossible to reach.

The trouble, of course, lies in the fact that for about 98 per cent of the year, Californians don't need storm drains.

It's the other 2 per cent of the time that teaches us all our lessons about drainage. It never rains but it pours.

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